

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BRENT ELEIGH PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON 16 JANUARY 2020 IN THE VILLAGE HALL COMMENCING AT 7.30PM**

Present:

Cllr Kevin Went (Chairman)
Cllr Martin Austin
Cllr Karen Marshall
Cllr Francesca Scoones

Apologies:

Cllr Natalie Shewring

In Attendance:

District Councillor Bryn Hurren
Four members of the public
William Grosvenor (*Clerk to the Council*)

		Action
20.01	CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME Cllr Went welcomed all present to the meeting.	
20.02	TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Apologies were received from Cllr Shewring and County Councillor Robert Lindsay.	
20.03	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	
20.03.01	To Receive Amendments to the Register There were no amendments to the Register.	
20.03.02	To Receive Declarations of Pecuniary Interest in Respect of Items on the Agenda There were none.	
20.03.03	To Receive Declarations of Non Pecuniary Interest in Respect of Items on the Agenda There were none.	
20.03.04	To Receive Full / Partial Dispensations for Pecuniary Interests Declared It was noted that there had been no requests for dispensations.	
20.04	MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING It was RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 21 November 2019 and sign them as a true and accurate record. Proposed by: Cllr Went Seconded by: Cllr Marshall	
	<i>It was then agreed to take the following Items, including Planning issues, out of order</i>	
20.07	TO DISCUSS ANY VILLAGE MATTERS Cllr Marshall raised concerns about overflowing roadside ditches during the recent heavy rainfall, due to lack of maintenance. She queried who was responsible. The Clerk advised that almost invariably this is the responsibility of the landowner. In discussion Councillors regretted that this is an area that is being neglected in farmland managed by contractors, as opposed to in traditional family farms where drainage and long term land management generally are viewed as more of a priority.	

20.12	PLANNING ISSUES	
20.12.01	<p>To Consider Planning Applications received</p> <p>(1) DC/20/00124 – Barn A Bridge Farm, Lavenham Road – Conversion of agricultural barn into 1no residential dwelling with garden area, vehicular access and new triple cartlodge.</p> <p>(2) DC/20/00125 – Barn B Bridge Farm, Lavenham Road – Conversion of agricultural barn into 1no residential dwelling with garden area, vehicular access and new triple cartlodge.</p> <p>(3) DC/20/00126 – Barn C Bridge Farm, Lavenham Road – Conversion of agricultural barn into 3no dwellings with garden areas, vehicular access and 3no new cartlodges and removal of Barn D.</p> <p>(4) DC/20/00127 – Historic Barns, Bridge Farm, Lavenham Road - Conversion of traditional farm buildings to form 1no residential dwelling.</p> <p>In respect of the applications for Barns A, B and C, these buildings already benefit from permitted development rights to convert to residential use, and the planning issues for consideration here are around the details and finishes, together with the landscaping and access. Application DC/20/00127 involves the conversion of a historic but unlisted barn into residential use. Following discussion on a suitable way forward, it was AGREED that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Clerk will contact the Suffolk Preservation Society for advice on whether the proposals are appropriate from the perspective of the best conservation of the buildings and advise Councillors accordingly. • District Cllr Hurren to seek an extension from the Case Officer at Babergh to facilitate consideration of an appropriate reply. 	<p>Clerk</p> <p>District Cllr Hurren</p>
20.12.02	<p>To consider Updates on Planning Applications</p> <p>(5) DC/19/04923 – Land north of Second Pits, Highlands Road, Monks Eleigh – Application for change of use to Traveller pitch.</p> <p>No decision on this application has yet been advised.</p>	
20.12.03	<p>To receive notifications on Planning Applications as determined by Babergh DC</p> <p>(6) DC/19/04844 Laxfield House, Cundys Lane – Proposed erection of external passenger lift.</p> <p>Planning consent was granted by letter dated 9 December.</p>	
	<i>It was then agreed to revert to the order of the Agenda</i>	
20.05	<p>TO RECEIVE THE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT</p> <p>Cllr Hurren reported as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council Tax for Band D is likely to rise £55-£65 overall in 2020/21. The final decision will be made in February. Suffolk County Council will also be imposing a rise of 2% for the social care element. • The new draft Babergh Local Plan will go to examination by a Planning Inspector later this year. • The planning application for a gypsy and traveller site off Highlands Road, Monks Eleigh, is likely to be determined by Planning Committee rather than be delegated to officers. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clay Lane was inspected earlier on 16 January. Information is now available on who is responsible for maintaining the surface. Cllr Hurren will liaise with the SCC Rights of Way Team. 	
20.06	<p>TO RECEIVE THE COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT</p> <p>Although Cllr Lindsay offered his apologies due to continuing ill-health he provided the Clerk with a report which is summarised as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Norse has given notice to SCC of early withdrawal from route 112, which will now cease at the end of March. It will not be possible to arrange a replacement for the 3 months remaining until the end of the contract. Pressure is being put on the Cabinet Member for Transport to agree to meet the bus passengers. In discussion on this Cllr Marshall undertook to arrange a meeting of all affected parishes and ascertain why Norse has withdrawn early. For 2020/21 the precept will rise by 4% (2% general and 2% social care). The surplus for investment will be £3.5m in that year only. £3m will be put into projects relating to carbon reduction, carbon offset, road safety, natural environment, built environment, innovation and use of technology and which have a Cabinet Member sponsor. £0.5m will be invested in improving road sign and marking visibility, refreshing markings along main routes through villages and those supporting sustainable transport options such as cycling in urban areas, and minor signage repairs. Citizen's Advice funding will continue with SCC providing £0.12m funding each year for the next three years. In 2020/21 there will also be a second year of funding from Clinical Commissioning Groups which equates to an additional £0.184m for 2020/21. SCC is planning to bid for c£20m from the Department for Transport for an electric bus pilot. If successful the pilot scheme will be launched in Bury St Edmunds. In January 2019 SCC agreed to provide an additional £45.1m to fund additional school and specialist units for children with special educational needs and disabilities. The first 10 specialist units, providing 168 spaces, are due to open in September 2020. 	Cllr Marshall
20.08	<p>TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE VILLAGE NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH CO-ORDINATOR</p> <p>Cllr Went reported a theft of oil from Bridge Cottage in December 2019.</p>	
20.09	<p>TO RECEIVE AND CONSIDER REPORTS ON FINANCIAL AND GOVERNANCE MATTERS</p>	
20.09.01	<p>To receive the financial update report</p> <p>The Clerk distributed copies of the updated cashbook and reported that the balance in the Council's account with Lloyds Bank, as at the date of the meeting stood at £3,851.59.</p>	
20.09.02	<p>To consider and approve payments</p> <p>There were none to approve.</p>	

20.09.03	<p>To approve the renewal of the annual subscription to Suffolk Preservation Society (SPS) It was AGREED to renew the subscription to SPS as it falls due.</p>	Clerk
20.09.04	<p>Limit for Section 137 expenditure 2020/21 The Clerk advised that the appropriate sum for local councils under section 137(4)(a) Local Government Act 1972 for the year 2020/21 is £8.32. This sum, multiplied by the number of electors (153) would yield £1,272.96.</p>	
20.09.05	<p>To agree the Budget for 2020/21 The Clerk distributed copies of the updated budget sheet, showing both budget and actual expenditure to date in 2019/20, and an indicative budget for 2020/21. Projected expenditure to 31 March 2020 is £2,987 with receipts totalling £2,449. For 2020/21, budgeted expenditure is estimated to be around £1,430. Following discussion it was AGREED to adopt that figure as the base budget for 2020/21.</p>	
20.09.06	<p>To agree the Precept for 2020/21 Given the projected spend to year end the cash balance as at 31 March is estimated to be around £3,049. Following discussion it was RESOLVED as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To put the sum of £1,000 into an earmarked reserve for expenditure on the Village Hall (or towards provision of a defibrillator) thus leaving around £2,049 as a general reserve at year end. To apply an overall increase of 2% to the precept claimed raising it to £2,295.00 for 2020/21. The tax base in Brent Eleigh has fallen by 1.4% since last year, so taxpayers would pay slightly more for a precept of the same amount as in 2019/20, and therefore a 2% rise will in fact amount to just over 3% factoring in the lower tax base. <p><i>Proposed by:</i> Cllr Went <i>Seconded by:</i> Cllr Scoones</p>	
20.10	<p>TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS Cllr Marshall reported that the refurbishment of the old village telephone kiosk will be finished as soon as the weather improves. Cost as previously agreed will be £450.00.</p>	
20.11	<p>TO RECEIVE THE CLERK'S REPORT</p>	
20.11.01	<p>Buckingham Palace Garden Party 2020 It was AGREED that no nomination will be put forward this year.</p>	
20.11.02	<p>Village Spring Clean 2020 It was AGREED that this will take place on 21 March; details to follow.</p>	Cllr Went
20.11.03	<p>EV charging stations The Clerk reported receipt of a communication from a company called <i>PLUG-N-GO.com</i>, which works with local councils to install EV charging stations. This will be passed to Cllr Marshall / Cllr Scoones to consider whether suitable for the village hall.</p>	Clerk
20.11.04	<p>Suffolk CC division boundary consultation This was now closed and draft recommendations will be published in March 2020.</p>	
20.13	<p>DATES OF FUTURE ORDINARY MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 19 March 2020 <p><i>All meetings are held at Brent Eleigh Village Hall and start at 7.30pm.</i></p>	

20.14	CHAIRMAN'S CLOSING REMARKS The Chairman thanked everyone for attending the meeting. There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.08pm.	
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